

TITLE**METHOD FOR REDUCING START UP BLINDING IN NO-PROCESS
LITHOGRAPHIC PRINTING PLATES****ABSTRACT**

5 A method for reducing start up blinding in no-process lithographic printing
plates is disclosed. An imageable element, comprising an imageable layer over
a substrate, is thermally imaged. The imageable layer comprises a thermally
sensitive polymer that comprises quaternary ammonium salts of carboxylic acids.
Following imaging, the surface of the imaged imageable is contacted with an
10 aqueous solution comprising 0.05 wt% to about 5 wt% of an added organic acid
having a pKa of about 1 to about 6. This reduces the amount of waste produced
by the printing process by reducing the number of unusable sheets produced
during the "make ready" process.